

5. (Amended) An animal trap system in accordance with claim 1 wherein the central unit comprises apparatus for annunciating the identities of ones of the plurality of animal traps and the position of their respective moving portions.

11. (Amended) An animal trap system in accordance with claim 7 wherein the central unit comprises apparatus for annunciating the identities of ones of the plurality of animal traps and the position of their respective moving portions.

13. (Amended) An animal trap system in accordance with claim 11 wherein the apparatus for annunciating comprises an automatic e-mail sender.

14. (Amended) An animal trap system in accordance with claim 13 wherein the apparatus for annunciating comprises an automatic telephone dialer.

REMARKS

Responsive to Office Action of April 10, 2002, Applicant submits a new declaration in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.67(a), including the zip code of the inventor.

In the Office Action mailed on April 10, 2002, the drawings were objected to by the Examiner for absence of a reference sign 146 in FIG. 4. Applicant submits the corrected FIG. 4 clearly indicating sign reference 146 for a remote communication unit as described in the original specification on page 5, line 4. Enclosed is also a copy of the drawing FIG. 4 as originally filed with the correction marked in red ink. Applicant believes that this amendment overcomes the Examiner's objections under 37 C.F.R. §1.84(p)(5). Applicant also submits a new set of formal drawings, including the corrected FIG. 4, to substitute the drawings previously filed for this application. The Examiner is hereby respectfully requested to indicate approval of the proposed correction in drawing FIG. 4 and acceptance of submitted formal drawings in the next Official letter.

Applicant also corrected the disclosure by changing reference 123 on page 5, line 36, to reference 133, as requested by the Examiner.

In the Office Action the Examiner objected claims 2 and 13 for different informalities, and rejected claims 5 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §112 as indefinite.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6 and 10-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Vick et al. (USPN 5,005,416) in view of Nieves (USPN 6,202,340) and Skelton et al. (USPN 6,067,018), and claims 7-9 as unpatentable over Vick et al. in view of Nieves.

By this Amendment, Applicant amended claims 2, 5, 11, 13 and 14 to overcome different informalities. In making these revisions, care has been taken to ensure that the claims remain supported by the specification and that no new matter has been added.

Applicant appreciates the time and consideration provided by Examiner in reviewing this application, however, respectfully traverses the rejection of the claims at least for the following reasons.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6 and 10-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Vick et al. (USPN 5,005,416) in view of Nieves (USPN 6,202,340) and Skelton et al. (USPN 6,067,018).

The animal trap system of the present application comprises a central unit which receives periodic signals provided by a plurality of rf transmitters installed in animal traps, each signal identifying the source (trap) and current position of the moving part of the trap (state of the trap). The central unit *identifies the traps* and their current state from the received signals and *continuously displays the current state* of the traps, thus allowing a caretaker to check only the traps holding animals.

Vick et al. disclose an insect trap, which produces an electrical signal from the motion of the insect. Vick et al. do not teach a trap having moving parts designed to trap an animal, or a continuous display by a central unit of the state of the trap on a remote receiving unit.

Nieves discloses a rodent trap, which sends a rf signal when the trap is tripped, however does not teach or suggest a system for transmitting and receiving periodic transmission signals from a plurality of traps identifying each trap and the current state of each trap.

Skelton et al. disclose a runaway dog collar, which receives a signal from a hand-held portable unit associated with the collar. A periodic transmission from the collar disclosed by Skelton et al. is triggered by a signal received from the portable unit and is sent in return *to this portable* unit. Skelton et al. does not teach or suggest to identify the source of a periodic transmission from a plurality of transmissions which is being continuously received by a single receiver system from multiple transmitter units, the transmission also providing the current position of a movable portion associated with each transmitter.

It is submitted that none of the prior art references cited by the Examiner contain any suggestion or motivation to combine the teachings of the Skelton et al. and Nieves' patents with Vick et al. citation. Accordingly, it would not be proper to make the combination.

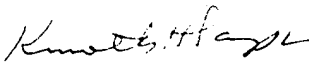
However, if made, no combination of the cited references would teach an animal trap system comprising a central unit for identifying a plurality of animal traps from rf transmissions received from the traps, and annunciating the condition of the traps associated with the position of the moving portion of the trap.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that no combination of cited references can render the claims 1-14 as originally presented and amended by this amendment obvious, and that the application as amended complies with 35 U.S.C. §103 and is in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (312)577-7000 with any questions in connection with this application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required in this application under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.17 during its entire pendency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1135. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 06-1135.

Respectfully submitted,


Kenneth H. Samples
Registration No. 25,747

Date: July 9, 2002

FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY
Suite 1600
120 South LaSalle Street
Chicago, Illinois 60603-3406
Telephone: (312) 577-7000
Facsimile: (312) 577-7007



VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE
BY AMENDMENT

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 36, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- FIG. 6 is a flow diagram of the operation of the trap transmitters [123] 133 during normal operation. The flow begins with a start operation 161 which is initiated by the placement of –

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 2, 5, 11, 13 and 14, as follows.

2. (Amended) An animal trap system in accordance with claim 1 wherein each animal trap comprises a switch for generating a trap signal representing the position of the moving portion.

5. (Amended) An animal trap system in accordance with claim 1 wherein the [control] central unit comprises apparatus for annunciating the identities of ones of the plurality of animal traps and the position of their respective moving portions.

11. (Amended) An animal trap system in accordance with claim [1] 7 wherein the [control] central unit comprises apparatus for annunciating the identities of ones of the plurality of animal traps and the position of their respective moving portions.

13. (Amended) An animal trap system in accordance with claim 11 wherein the [means] apparatus for annunciating comprises an automatic e-mail sender.

14. (Amended) An animal trap system in accordance with claim 13 wherein the [means] apparatus for annunciating comprises an automatic telephone dialer.